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The carices of the list, so far as represented by the collections of Professor Trelease, have been identified by Prof. L. H. Bailey, and the cellular cryptogams by a number of specialists. At the close of the paper is a generic index and a bibliography of Azorean botany. The whole report is not only a great credit to its author, but forms the most noteworthy piece of recent American work upon any extra-American flora.

B. L. R.

**The Flora of British India.** — With the publication of the title-page and preface of the seventh volume, and a full index (collated with the *Index Kewensis*) to the entire work, *The Flora of British India*<sup>1</sup> is brought to a close at the end of 1897. In the quarter of a century consumed in its publication the area to which it is devoted has materially increased, and many new collections have been brought to the hands of its indefatigable editor and his collaborators, so that it is but natural that the later volumes should be more thorough than the earlier ones. Valuable it is, throughout; and yet, as Dr. Hooker remarks in the preface to the concluding volume, the treatise is to be regarded as a pioneer work rather than a finished flora. There is no reason to doubt, however, that time will justify his very modestly expressed hope that it may not only enable botanists to name with some accuracy a host of Indian plants, but that it may further facilitate the compilation of local floras and monographs and the discussion of the problems of the distribution of plants from the point of view of what he very well characterizes as perhaps the richest and certainly the most varied botanical area on the surface of the globe, and one which, in a greater degree than any other, contains representatives of the floras of both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

T.

**Miss Eastwood's Studies.**<sup>2</sup> — In the second part of the recently inaugurated botanical section of the *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences*, Miss Eastwood gives interesting information concerning a number of plants from the White Sands of New Mexico; a comparative study of spurless forms of *Aquilegia*, in

<sup>1</sup> *The Flora of British India*. By Sir J. D. Hooker, assisted by various botanists. London. L. Reeve & Co. Pts. xxiii and xxiv. Price 18s. net. — The dates of publication of the volumes, as follows: i, May 1872–Feb. 1875; ii, May 1876–May 1879; iii, May 1880–Dec. 1882; iv, June 1883–Aug. 1885; v, Aug. 1886–Apr. 1890; vi, Dec. 1890–Apr. 1894; vii, 1896–1897.

<sup>2</sup> Alice Eastwood, Studies in the Herbarium and the Field. No. 1. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.* 3 ser. Botany, i, No. 2, 71–86. Pl. VI, VII.

which several nominal varieties of this character are described ; descriptions of new Californian species belonging to the genera *Iris*, *Montia*, and *Newberrya* ; and a revision of the Manzanitas of Mt. Tamalpais, in which, because of the inadequacy of printed descriptions and other difficulties, three forms that seem undescribed are described and named as distinct species, while it is left to some future monographer of the genus to assign "definite limits, if that be possible in so polymorphous a genus, which continually suggests hybridization or a very active and unlimited tendency to vary."

T.

**Pittonia.** — In the seventeenth part of volume three of this work,<sup>1</sup> which appears at irregular intervals, Professor Greene writes on new species of *Eriogonum* ; the hop trefoils, for which he takes up Desvaux's name *Chrysaspis* ; a second list of corrections in nomenclature, in which he takes up Necker's name *Aragallus* for a large number of leguminous plants usually known as *Oxytropis* or *Spiesia* ; a nineteenth instalment of "New or Noteworthy Species," dealing likewise largely with Leguminosæ ; on the classification of asclepiads, in which the genus *Oxypteryx* is proposed for *Asclepias arenicola* Nash, and *Podostemma* for certain other species clustering about *Asclepias longicornu* Benth. ; the genus *Chamæcrista*, first established by Commelin in 1697, and of which, fortunately, considering their recent multiplication, no species are characterized as new, though nine are transferred from their familiar association with *Cassia* ; a sixth part of "Studies in the Compositæ" devoted to a discussion of the following new and restored genera : *Leucosyris*, *Leucelene*, and *Ionactis*, the latter based on *Aster linariifolius* L., *Chrysopsis alpina* Nutt., and *A. stenomeris* Gray ; a twentieth instalment of "New or Noteworthy Species," well distributed over the Polypetalæ and Gamopetalæ ; a second series of "Studies in the Cruciferae," in which the genus *Nesodraba* is proposed for several species of the Alaskan region, previously referred to *Draba* or *Cochlearia* ; and "Notes on Violets," accompanied by three plates illustrating *Viola emarginata*.

T.

**Cell or Corpuscle?** — Under this title, in *Natural Science* for December, 1897, Rudolf Beer discusses the much-vexed question of the terminology of those structural units which are yet organisms rather than the ultimate units of organs. Concluding that in vege-

<sup>1</sup> *Pittonia*. A series of botanical papers by Edward L. Greene. Washington, September–December, 1897. Price, 50 cts.